

Message Text

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21

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /059 W

----- 007667

R 101640Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2603

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMCONSUL THESSALONIKI

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR GR US

SUBJ: TA NEA PRINTS EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW WITH FORMER

AMBASSADOR TASCA

1. AFTERNOON GREEK LANGUAGE NEWSPAPER TA NEA (WITH LARGEST CIRCULATION IN GREECE) FEBRUARY 10 PRINTED WHAT PURPORTS TO BE AN EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW GIVEN ITS ROME CORRESPONDENT BY FORMER AMBASSADOR GREECE HENRY TASCA. THE STORY BEGINS ON THE FRONT PAGE -- SIX COLUMNS WIDE -- UNDER THE HEADLINE "ACCUSATION BY MR. TASCA: MR. KISSINGER ORDERED INTERVENTION IN CYPRUS; IT HAD BEEN PREPARED EVEN BEFORE THE COUP." THE STORY'S INITIAL SENTENCE READS, "MR. KISSINGER ORDERED THE CIA TO ORGANIZE THE TURKISH INTERVENTION IN CYPRUS."

2. ALTHOUGH REPORTS CONCERNING AMBASSADOR TASCA HAVE APPEARED FROM TIME TO TIME IN THE GREEK PRESS SINCE HIS DEPARTURE IN AUGUST 1974, THERE HAVE BEEN NO STORIES RELATED TO HIM IN THE PAST MONTH OR SO. THE PRESENT TA NEA STORY, TO A LARGE DEGREE, REPORTS COMMENTS ATTRIBUTED TO AMBASSADOR TASCA PREVIOUSLY. THERE ARE REALLY NO NEW ELEMENTS INTRODUCED INTO THIS

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REPORT OTHER THAN THE HEADLINE AND THE INTRODUCTORY

SENTENCE, WHICH IN FACT ARE NOWHERE SUPPORTED BY THE
REMAINDER OF THE STORY. HOWEVER, THE ASSERTION IS
MADE IN THE EARLY PART OF THE REPORT THAT BOTH
AMBASSADOR TASCA AND THE NEW YORK TIMES ARE PREPARING
TO REVEAL FURTHER FACTS CONCERNING THE CYPRUS
TRAGEDY, WHICH (ACCORDING TO TA NEA) HAVE
CAUSED "INTENSE ANXIETY IN DIPLOMATIC CIRCLES --
NOT SO MUCH BECAUSE IT WOULD PUT AN END TO
THE DIPLOMATIC CAREER OF MR. KISSINGER BUT ALSO
BECAUSE GOVERNMENTS OF EUROPEAN COUNTRIES WERE ALSO
IMPLICATED IN THE TURKISH INTERVENTION IN CYPRUS."

3. EMBASSY DOES NOT BELIEVE THAT THIS TA NEA REPORT
PER SE WILL CAUSE ANY GREAT STIR HERE. SINCE THE
STORY ITSELF IS SO SHORT ON FACTS (DESPITE ITS
PROVOCATIVE HEADLINE) -- OTHER PAPERS MIGHT SHY
AWAY FROM REPEATING OR COMMENTING ON IT.
KUBISCH

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: INTERVENTION, PRESS CONFERENCES, ALLEGATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 10 FEB 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: morefirh
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976ATHENS01279
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760051-0430
From: ATHENS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760266/aaaacfjm.tel
Line Count: 79
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: morefirh
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 08 MAR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <08 MAR 2004 by GarlanWA>; APPROVED <03 JUN 2004 by morefirh>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: TA NEA PRINTS EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW WITH FORMER AMBASSADOR TASCA
TAGS: PFOR, PINS, US, GR, CY, CIA, (KISSINGER, HENRY A), (TASCA, HENRY)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006